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Vol. IV. CALGARY, ALBERTA, MARCH 11, 1925 No. 7

Provincial Treasurer in His Budget Speech Presents Estimates for the Year 1925

Estimated Deficit Reduced to $368,632.51, as Compared With Actual Deficit of $820,841.42 in 1924—Net Shortage of $545,711.81 Would Have Been Wiped Out but for Disallowance of Mineral Tax and the Delay in Payment of Federal Highways Grant—Increased Charges for Public Debt Main Item of Increased Expenditure—Reid Describes Policy of Economy

Staff Correspondence

EDMONTON, March 11.—In his budget speech in the Assembly today, R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer, estimated the revenue and income account in 1925 at $11,221,109.00 and the expenditure at $11,589,741.51, leaving an estimated deficit of $368,632.51. The actual deficit in 1924 was $820,841.42. The estimated increase in expenditure in 1925 is $462,272.96, and the estimated increase in revenue $714,181.87. The greater part of the increased expenditure is made up by public debt charges which show a total increase of $223,973.63.

THE BUDGET IN BRIEF—COMPARATIVE ESTIMATES

	Actual Expenditure in 1924	Estimated Expenditure for 1925	Actual Revenue in 1924	Estimated Revenue for 1925
Dominion Subsidy	.....	.....	1,674,435.00	1,674,435.00
School Lands	.....	.....	888,481.72	600,000.00
Public Debt	$3,666,771.87	$4,021,695.50	.....	.....
Executive Council	369,387.33	369,715.00	600,937.46	600,875.00
Legislation	182,054.77	190,480.00	1,702.00	2,015.00
Dept. of Agriculture	549,056.59	551,465.84	582,590.00	582,600.00
Atty-Gen'l's Dept.	1,456,079.45	1,608,184.50	2,427,504.06	2,834,200.00
Dept. of Education	2,058,804.24	2,061,705.00	190,954.50	174,100.00
Municipal Affairs	330,668.87	347,460.00	2,378,739.34	2,388,500.00
Provincial Secretary	54,588.53	52,175.00	2,160,861.21	2,091,861.00
Dept. Public Health	807,515.01	868,035.00	114,666.36	119,005.00
Dept. Pub. Works	1,463,686.39	1,363,894.00	65,194.52	345,700.00
Dept. Railways and Telephones—				
Railways Branch	55,260.70	54,710.00	1,600.00	1,500.00
Dept. Prov. Treas.	973,592.84	898,936.00	563,471.09	561,084.00
Totals	$11,127,469.55	$11,589,741.51	$10,566,657.13	$11,221,109.00

SAVING ON ESTIMATE OF $683,550 IN 1924

The Provincial Treasurer stated that had the Alberta Government been able to collect the Mineral Rights Tax, which the Federal Government disallowed, and had the Federal Highways Grant for work done in 1924 been received before the end of the financial year, the Province would have been able to wipe out the net shortage of $545,711.81 in 1924, as these two items alone totalled $640,000. There had been a saving on the estimates, he said, of $683,550, every branch of the Provincial expenditure showing a reduction on the estimates, except the item of Miscellaneous Refunds, which proved to be larger than anticipated. Included in Miscellaneous Refunds was the amount collected up to the time when the Mineral Rights Tax Act was disallowed, this amount having to be refunded.

CONSISTENT POLICY OF ECONOMY SINCE 1921

Since the year 1922, the first year of the U. F. A. Government, said Mr. Reid, the Government had observed a consistent policy of economy. In the years 1922, 1923 and 1924, all the spending departments made savings on the estimates, with the exception of the one item of public debt in 1923 and the Miscellaneous Refunds in 1924, which were, practically, ward trend in controllable and ture, a steady upward trend in continuing.

HON. R. G. REID

set controllable expenditures.

The Provincial Treasurer presented a statement analyzing the expenditures of the Province since its formation in 1905. Expenditures were classified under three heads—uncontrollable, which represented charges on public debt; semi-controllable, representing expenditures on courts of justice, jails and other Provincial institutions such as the mental hospital at Ponoka, and all special allowances; and controllable expenditure. All three of these classes of expenditure showed a consistent upward tendency up to the year 1922, when there began a downsemi-controllable expendi- uncontrollable expenditure

Mr. Reid made the very striking announcement that in the three years during which they had been in office, the U. F. A. Government had effected a saving in controllable and semi-controllable expenditure of $1,371,864.11, which constituted an actual saving in the cost of government. He declared that it was the full intention of the Government to continue this policy of economy.

SAVINGS WITHOUT SACRIFICING EFFICIENCY

In illustration of the practical application of this policy, the Minister cited a number of significant items. By the institution of the control of purchase there was saved in 1924 the sum of $25,000, while in the same year there was a reduction in the expenditure of the branch of the King's Printer, of $43,096.01 as compared with the expenditure of 1923; $83,512.54 as compared with 1922 and $153,351 as compared with 1921. All these savings were effected without any sacrifice of efficiency in the branches of the civil

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EDITORIAL

CIVIC AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

Does the field of Provincial affairs call for lower standards of political honesty than that of municipal affairs? Under the party system, apparently, it does. A public man who has gained a high reputation for non-partizanship and sincerity in the field of municipal affairs, when he enters the Provincial Legislature believes, at least in some important instances, that he is called upon to descend to an inferior standard. Municipal affairs are serious business. The Provincial Assembly is regarded, not as a more dignified sphere of public service, but as an arena in which the chief consideration is the scoring of points in a game, in a manner which no business man would think of adopting in his own business, or in a civic position.

Service in the Legislative Assembly, it might be supposed, should call for higher qualities than private business or even civic business. That among party politicians it calls for lower standards is due entirely to the traditions of partyism, its inherent insincerity and the absurd idea that Provincial business cannot be carried on without an "official opposition."

The Legislature will gain in popular esteem in the exact degree in which this antiquated system is discarded. Until party politicians are replaced by men of independent outlook, by the election of a greater body of men from the cities who decline to associate themselves with the old forms of party politics, the frittering away of time in the Legislature on trivialities, to the neglect of public business, is bound to continue. It is time that the standards of political life in the Legislature were raised to at least as high a level as the prevailing standards in the field of dignified municipal service.

* * *

In Alberta politics there is no practical difference between the Liberal and Conservative parties, except that the sole member of the Legislature who sits, nominally, as an Independent Conservative, is incomparably more progressive in outlook than the official Liberal party. He has also refused, hitherto, to insult the intelligence of the public by engaging in insincere political manoeuvres, or uttering insincere political claptrap on the floor of the Assembly. Dr. Stewart's views as expressed in the corridors are exactly the same as the views he expresses in the Legislature.

Party labels and party names have ceased to have any meaning. Dr. Stewart's party is quite as reactionary as the Liberal party, and in spite of a sentimental attachment to tradition he has been in the Legislative Assembly far too good an Independent to be regarded as a representative Conservative.

* * *

A NEWSPAPER VENTURE IN FRENZIED FINANCE

By assuming that the difference between cash in the bank at the beginning of the year and cash in the bank at the end of the year represented a deficit, the Edmonton Bulletin, in an editorial on the public accounts of Alberta, arrived at the startling conclusion that there was a "deficit on capital account" in 1924, to be added to the actual deficit of $620,841.42 as shown in the accounts. By an ingenious juggling with figures, the Bulletin arrived at the still more amazing discovery that the grand total of the expenditure for the year was $53,000,000, which was labelled "controllable expenditure."

Both statements were entirely and hopelessly wrong. If the difference between cash in hand at the beginning of the year and the end represented a deficit, any Government could show a surplus by borrowing several millions of dollars at the end of the financial year.

The facts were, of course, as shown in the accounts which no authority on elementary bookkeeping is likely to challenge. Expenditure on income account was $11,127,496.55, of which, as the statements published in this issue of "The U. F. A." show, debt charges absorbed 34.2 per cent.; semi-controllable expenditure 33.5 per cent.; and controllable expenditure 32.3 per cent.

We call attention to this case of misrepresentation because, so long as even a small section of the public remains dependent for "information" upon public affairs on newspaper comment of so completely unreliable a character as that of the Bulletin in the editorial referred to, public discussion of public affairs must be carried on under a serious handicap.

The public accounts have never been so clearly presented as they are today. There is no excuse for any newspaper which has direct access to them, to lack an adequate understanding of Alberta's financial position.

* * *

One of the briefest, and at the same time an admirable speech in the debate on the address, was delivered in the Assembly last week by Mr. St. Amand, the member for St. Albert. Mr. St. Amand's intervention was provoked by a purely partisan statement on the Grouard by-election. In reply he made no attempt to retaliate in kind but carried conviction by a moderate, well-balanced speech, non-controversial in tone.

* * *

In the current issue Mr. Warner describes the action taken by the Dominion Parliament, on the initiative of William Irvine, M.P., to revise the present rules of procedure, which were designed for the two-party system and in many respects fail to meet the modern needs. During the present week the Alberta Legislature has adopted a resolution calling for revision of the rules. In Alberta the two-party system has become an anachronism, and insofar as the forms of the system still remain, makes for legislative inefficiency.

* * *

The humor of the scene in the Legislature last week, as members of the Liberal party rose from their places in turn, to answer or evade Brownlee's disconcerting questions on the recent Liberal convention, was fully appreciated in the Assembly. The Attorney-General quoted the Liberals against themselves, beginning with the leader of the party, upon almost every question which they had introduced into the debate. He discussed in particular their record in the field of "economy." Mr. Brownlee told the story of Ole Olsen, a railroad employee who had been taking lessons in economy, and had been warned in particular to be mighty economical in the use of his oil and waste. When asked in an examination to say what he would do if he were driving a freight engine and on coming around a curve he were confronted with a passenger locomotive travelling at high speed in his direction on the same track, he replied without hesitation, "I'd grab that oil and that waste and yump." If there had been any place to jump to, that is just what a number of

(Continued on page 11)

Party Amendment Defeated by 42-11, Labor, Independent and Conservative Members Voting with U.F.A. in First Important Division of Session.

Liberals Differ in Interpretation of Meaning of Their Amendment, Bowen Stating It Is Intended as "Vote of Want of Confidence" for Purpose of Turning U. F. A. Government Out—Stewart Condemns "Political Vote-Catching Trick"—Important Resolution on Freight Rates Adopted by Assembly

Staff Correspondence

The vote on the amendment to the address was concluded on Thursday, March 5th, after eleven days had been spent in debate. Apart from the speakers on the Liberal benches, some of whom interpreted their amendment as a vote of lack of confidence in the Government, while others declared it was not intended as a no-confidence vote, this amendment was condemned as an opportunist manoeuvre in all quarters of the Assembly.

The way has now been cleared for the legislative business of the session.

An important resolution on the subject of freight rates, in effect calling for the maintenance of the Crow's Nest maximum rates without discrimination, and urging reduction of freight rates by the Western route, was adopted on motion of V. W. Smith.

Henry Wants "Business Men's Government"

Perrin Baker Contrasts Liberal Demands for New Expenditure With Cry for "Economy"—MacLachlan on Necessity for More Efficient Legislative System

MONDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 2.—Describing the Liberal party amendment as "a sincere effort to place the Government in an awkward position before the electorate," Perrin Baker, Minister of Education, in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne today, traced the record of the Liberals who with one exception opposed the proposal to reduce indemnities at a former session, and called attention to the fact that the Peiton resolution, at the recent Liberal convention, also met with short shrift. George MacLachlan, U. F. A. member for Pembina, dwelt on the railway needs of his constituency, and in appealing for the ending of the time-wasting political humbug which party politics encourages, quoted George W. Russell, one of the founders of the Irish Agricultural Co-operative movement, in support of the plan of economic group organization as the way out of the morass of legislative inefficiency. W. T. Henry, Edmonton (Liberal), Lorne Proudfoot, U. F. A. member for Acadia, Mrs. Nellie McClung, Edmonton (Liberal), and G. W. Smith, Red Deer (U. F. A.), were other speakers of the day.

Referring to the payment of 35 cents a bushel which had just been announced by the Inter-Provincial Wheat Pools, Mr. Proudfoot commended the splendid spirit which had made possible the successful launching of co-operative marketing enterprises. He spoke of the need for reduction in freight rates, and of the tariff, pointing out that 25 per cent. of the farmers' expenditure was devoted to paying tariff duties.

POWER POSSIBILITIES IN COAL

Dealing with industrial development, he said that in Ontario, Henry Ford had found it cheaper to bring coal from Nova Scotia, and use it in powdered form for power purposes, than to use Hydro-electric Power bought from the Ontario Commission. Mr. Ford had spent two and a half million dollars in experiments in order to develop this cheap power, which was cheap mainly because valuable by-products were produced which paid in full the cost of power production. Mr. Proudfoot thought that investigation might well show the desirability of establishing a number of central power plants in Alberta at which large piles of slack now going to waste could be used. If several plants were established in the coal centres, the heavy cost of long transmission lines would be eliminated.

This matter, said the member, might have an important bearing on the Spray Lakes power question, since the use of coal for power generation would employ more labor than the water power scheme. At Spray Lakes, an investment of $15,000,000 would include interest charges of $750,000, some of which would go to Alberta labor.

W. T. Henry, Edmonton (Liberal), commended Premier Greenfield's speech at Ottawa in which he spoke of the need for a united Canada. The problem of the West was over development. Every other Western Province had reduced expenditures, said the member, and Premier Dunning's budget speech in Saskatchewan showed that taxation was lower in that Province than in any other in the West. There were no gasoline, amusement or income taxes.

THE RECORD OF A "BUSINESS MEN'S GOVERNMENT"

Going on to advise the Premier to include in the cabinet "one or two business men", Mr. Henry was interrupted by Mr. Greenfield, who asked whether the member considered that those who followed agriculture could not be business men?

"We had what Mr. Henry calls a business Government before 1921," declared the Premier, "and see what a mess they left us in!"

During the first week of the debate some Liberal speakers sought to show that the Government dominated the U.F.A. Convention and others to prove that the U.F.A. Convention bullied the Government. Mr. Henry followed the latter theme, and condemned the resolution in which the U.F.A. principles were declared. He went on to discuss the Edmonton by-election, expressing disapproval of Government ownership of the means of production, and its supporters in Canada, and proceeded to lead the Labor Government in England.

"Does not the Labor party in England support government ownership of the means of production?" asked Mr. Christophers, to which Mr. Henry replied, "I think not."

"Yes, they do," retorted the Labor member.

The Edmonton member denounced what he described as "group government," declaring that it had been tried in Italy, and that it had produced a Mussolini to clean up the mess. He objected to the principle of proportional representation, which, he said, was unsound. On the first count in the Edmonton by-election he had a majority of 409, and this was reduced to 28 on the final count. The first move of Mussolini had been to discard proportional representation.

Mr. Henry did not think the Province was in a position at this time to launch out upon so ambitious a project as the Spray Lakes scheme; better leave it to a private company. He thought power from coal would prove as cheap as hydro-electric, and there was another possibility in the gas fields. He hoped for a satisfactory adjustment of the freight rates question, and that Premier Greenfield would protect the interests of the Province, and seek to eliminate discrimination. He would support any Government proposition for the reduction of taxation, and would vote for the opposition amendment to reduce members' indemnities.

CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS, SAYS MACLACHLAN

Rallying the Liberals on the inconsistencies revealed in their attack on the U.F.A. plan of political action, George MacLachlan, Pembina (U. F. A.), pointed out that while Messrs. Mitchell and Dechene had contended that the elected members were not supposed to be capable of exercising any personal judgment whatsoever, but were subjected to rigid control upon any and every question that might arise at any time, Mr. Tobin, on the other hand had sought to show that the U.F.A. Convention was under the thumb of the elected members. It was impossible, Mr. Mac-

Lachlan pointed out, to have it both ways.

Going on to explain what the plan of group organization and representation really meant, the member for Pembina said that only two classes of persons were today opposed to its adoption—those who did not understand it, and those who were in a privileged position and would lose their special privileges under a system of genuine political and economic democracy. The members of the Assembly who had spoken in condemnation of the group system had evidently very little conception of what it meant.

In support of his contention that present political methods are proving inefficient, Mr. MacLachlan quoted from a booklet recently issued by the Edmonton Journal, under the title "A Canada Forward Policy." This pamphlet set forth that the freeing of government from "political management and all that follows in its train," and the placing in control of governmental affairs of "men who are qualified by capacity, training and experience to organize and conduct," was a fundamental need of the Dominion. Some such plan was essential, said the Journal, to place the affairs of Canada upon a sound basis. The old methods, said the Journal, might "be said to be entirely responsible for our want of progress."

IRISH CO-OPERATIVE LEADER ON GROUP REPRESENTATION

The need for economic group representation, as a means of eliminating wasteful and superficial political methods, was recognized, not only by the U.F.A., but by eminent men in various walks of life who had given their attention to the subject. In support of this contention he quoted George W. Russell, who, with Sir Horace Plunkett, was the founder of the Irish co-operative movement and creator of the Irish Co-operative Organization Society, which, like the U.F.A., took as its motto "Better Farming, Better Business, Better Living." Mr. Russell had never been a politician, but he had through economic and educational work, done more than all the politicians to restore the country's economic life. While his people were engaged in factional political squabbles, he had proceeded, unostentatiously but thoroughly, to organize the farmers on the basis of sound economic enterprise. And he had come to exactly the same conclusion as the U.F.A. upon the necessity of economic group representation in parliament.

The new Irish constitution, Mr. Russell had pointed out, gave power to set up, when the people desired it, a second chamber elected on an economic group basis. It gave the people the right, whenever they became alive to its necessity, to set up, by this means, a second chamber "directly representative of the economic life of the country." The failure of the Irish to take advantage of this provision in their constitution was due to the hostility of the politicians now in control—politicians who knew how to sway an audience, knew how to play upon passion or prejudice, but had little capacity for constructive work. These politicians, Mr. Russell had stated, knew their jobs would be in danger if ever the economic plan were adopted. They knew that their present privileged position would vanish, their right to mismanage the Irish political affairs would soon end.

HON. PERREN BAKER

"WAY OUT FROM POLITICAL INEPTITUDE"

Mr. Russell realized, to quote his own words, that "the politicians naturally would be disinclined to set up a representative body, over which, in the nature of things, they could scarcely hope to exercise control." He also believed that if the Irish people ever became sufficiently alive to their own best interest to demand that the new "house of industry" should be set up, in which such organizations as the Irish farmers' co-operative associations would be directly represented, together with the various other industries, they would find through this channel "a way out from political ineptitude and blockade."

Once the house of representatives of economic groups was established, it would soon overshadow in importance the other house, because the producers' organizations would naturally choose their best men—men who had proved themselves by years of efficient service of a constructive sort. By sheer weight of the superiority of its personnel, and freedom from the common vices of "politics" as understood by the old fashioned politicians, the new house of industry would soon become the most authoritative body in the country. If it were not set up, Mr. Russell believed that the Irish people would in the near future be "looking for an Irish Mussolini to clean up the mess of democracy."

"BREAK THROUGH THE HUSKS OF PRECEDENT"

In view of the weight of evidence in support of the new plan of political organization, Mr. MacLachlan continued, the time had come when the people of Canada should "break through the husks of precedent," and insist upon the adoption of the new plan, now so generally approved in principle by thinking men.

Mr. MacLachlan expressed the opinion that the lease of the E. D. & B. C. Railway, which will expire in July of this year, should not be renewed unless a much better bargain could be made with the company. The Province gained no benefit under the terms of the present lease, unless there was a surplus over operating expenses, and although the line did in fact prove very profitable as a feeder for the C.P.R. system, no direct surplus had as yet been shown. The company would never make ends meet on this line, though they profited indirectly, and it was therefore desirable for the Province itself to see whether it could not make the line pay under direct Provincial management.

The member for Pembina briefly discussed the Municipal Districts Act, the taxes on abandoned Soldiers' Settlement Board lands, the Municipal Hospitals Act, school grants, and the railway problem of the Province as a whole. He called attention to the necessity for improved railway facilities in his constituency and for the development of a Pacific outlet, and urged that no district should seek one hundred per cent. service before other districts had fifty per cent. service. He was definitely opposed to "pork barrel politics."

Mrs. McClung, Edmonton (Liberal), expressed herself as in favor of the Amendment, and called attention to the fact that she had previously voted for a reduction in indemnities, when it was brought to her attention that school grants must be reduced and also the number of inspectors, and that mothers' allowances must be curtailed.

NEW ROADS PLAN VERY POPULAR

Referring to the suggestion made by a Liberal member that Provincial politics had been introduced into municipal affairs, G. W. Smith, Red Deer (U.F.A.), said that in his district there had never been any such occurrence. Mr. Smith said the new system of apportioning money on highways and market roads was a great improvement on the old, and was becoming very popular. Results were being obtained for money expended, and at last the Province was getting some good roads built. Suitable machinery was now being used and suitable oversight provided.

Mr. Smith approved of Mr. Pearson's views on the personal covenant in mortgages, and declared that the limitation of the covenant was very bad legislation. To have made this legislation retroactive was to observe a vicious principle. "Certain adventurers got this legislation passed to save their hides," said Mr. Smith.

The member for Red Deer said he was not much concerned as to who should receive the credit for the Wheat Pool so long as it proved a success, as it was doing. He cited the very successful efforts made in the Red Deer district to establish co-operative marketing of livestock in the face of strong drover opposition and stated that the cost of marketing hogs had been reduced from $1.25 a hundredweight to 60 cents. The first year's business totalled $50,000, and in 1924 the total was $450,000. Mr. Smith gave a number of illustrations of the great success achieved in marketing cattle and eggs.

PLEA FOR ECONOMY THREE YEARS OUT OF DATE

Perren Baker, Minister of Education, in humorous vein contrasted the demands of the Liberals for "economy", in general, with their individual demands for increased expenditure. The member for Bearer River, for example, wanted a large sum of money spent on railway extensions, costing many millions of dollars. Mr. Tobin wanted economy, but also demanded the rapid completion of a railway at great expense, and wanted a school inspector

for Leduc. Mr. Henry had talked of making a "beginning" in economy. Well, the present Government, between 1921 and 1923 had reduced controllable expenditure by over $900,000. The beginning had been made in 1921, and Mr. Henry's plea was a little belated. There were today 500 fewer employees in the civil service and in the telephone department than formerly, and the service was more efficient. Mr. McLennan, of Edmonton, had said that it was an extravagance to have the normal school at Camrose, and it should be in Edmonton. "Well," said Mr. Baker, "I did not put the Normal School at Camrose, a 'business administration' put it there.

"Let us have a 'business administration,'" said the Minister, "and we'll have a railroad in Leduc, a railroad in Beaver River, a Normal School at Edmonton, an inspector in Leduc and higher grants to schools, all from a group of members who are demanding the drastic curtailment of expenditure.

"Amendments like these," said he, "tend to destroy confidence in governments and in our principle of government. If I were at Ottawa I would not seek to embarrass Mr. King by attempting to undermine confidence in this insincere fashion."

The Minister went on to discuss the work of his department. There were at present in the University of Alberta, he said, eighty-three instructors and others who gave part of their time and received some remuneration. Students totalled 1341, including 738 in arts, 117 in applied science, 200 in medicine, 109 in law, 158 in agriculture, 46 in pharmacy. There were 953 in the regular courses in the undergraduate body.

It had been said that many students wasted their time. Well, they might at times appear frivolous to "sober, grey heads like ours," and yet be putting their time to very good use. There was in the University a student governing body. In 1923-24, a total of 15 of the freshmen class were advised to leave, and 15 required to withdraw.

In that year a class in psychology had been established in Edmonton, and an instructor was now going to Calgary every week to take a similar class. The department of extension was doing good work. The agricultural department had sent exhibits to compete at the fairs at Toronto, Ottawa and Chicago, and captured a large number of prizes for Alberta bred and fed animals.

RESEARCH WORK AT UNIVERSITY

Mr. Baker said the research work formed a very important feature of the University activities, and the discoveries made by Dr. Collip, through research made possible by the Rockefeller grant of $5,000, had been of very high value. The Calgary institute of technology and art showed rapid progress, and had 939 persons taking correspondence courses. These courses were free at the expense of the Province, and members should keep the matter in mind in going through their constituencies.

At the Normal schools about 700 teachers were trained, and the supply was now just about adequate to meet requirements. There had been slight decrease in the number of pupils enrolled in the schools. All told there were 5,777 teachers, and the rooms totalled 4,742. Regularity in attendance was improving, and there was a general advancement in standards. The percentage of pupils in the eighth grade was higher than formerly, and also the percentage in the high schools.

IMPROVEMENT IN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

The average period of operation of schools was slightly higher, being 184.7 days. Simplification of the high school course had been brought about. The new Ontario course was almost the same as the Alberta curriculum, with the same classification as to fundamental and secondary subjects.

Mr. Baker said that the average salary of rural teachers was $1046, and of all teachers $1186. More than 100 schools operated for fewer than 100 days, and more than 40,000 pupils attended for less than 100 days last year.

The system of financing rural education was not very satisfactory. Mill rates varied greatly, and the assessment in some districts was $10,000 and in others $400,000. The poorer districts were unable to carry on, or secured only a short period of operation, while the schools which were able to finance themselves gained the full Government grant. By special grants these poorer districts last year were enabled to continue, and in few districts was it not possible to give six months' schooling.

"These people in the outlying districts are the pioneer people of Alberta, and should be looked after," said the Minister.

Brownlee Delivers Vigorous Attack on Government Critics

Shorter Catechism on Recent Liberal Convention—What the Special Audit Saved Province—Maiden Speech of L. A. Giroux Well Received

TUESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 3.—Replying to the statement of T. C. Milnes that $41,000 spent by the Government on the Provincial audit undertaken in 1921 was an extravagant amount, J. E. Brownlee, Attorney General, stated in the debate on the address today that the audit, by revealing a loss in the Liquor Branch which was subsequently made good by collection, saved the Province $10,000 in one lump sum, and that another direct result of the special audit was a reduction by $20,000 of the cost of the annual Provincial audit; this saving of $20,000 being repeated from year to year.

In a speech of two and a half hours' duration, Mr. Brownlee made a counter-attack upon the critics of the Government. Spectators in the gallery looked on with unconcealed amusement as the Attorney General subjected the protesting Liberal members of the Assembly to a kind of shorter catechism upon their record at the recent Liberal convention, when a resolution calling for a reduction in sessional indemnities was submitted by Mr. Pelton of Edmonton and was heavily defeated. C. R. Mitchell, who was the first to be questioned, replied after some hesitation that he himself unfortunately was not present when the vote was taken. The Liberal leader then looked on without effective intervention while in the debate his colleagues were in turn subjected to a similar questionnaire. S. G. Tolin, when asked to state his position, did not indicate his stand on the Pelton resolution, but asserted that he "supported the Liberal platform". L. A. Giroux made no reply. As various other members rose from their places when called upon, only one, R. C. Marshall, could state that he had voted for the rejected resolution, while Mr. Marshall would not say that he had spoken in favor of it. He protested against this continued "cross-examination" of himself and his colleagues. The Liberal leader listened, for the most part, in subdued silence to the further proceedings and to the recounting by the Attorney General of various incidents at the Liberal convention in Calgary, including the rejection of a resolution calling for the restoration of the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement.

WHITE SET STANDARD TO BE EMULATED

After paying a tribute to the members of the Legislature who have been removed by death, and congratulating those who had been promoted, Mr. Brownlee made reference to the speech of F. J. White, Labor member for Calgary, declaring that Mr. White "had set a standard of fair and constructive criticism which may well be emulated by those not associated with us in this Assembly."

Suggesting to the occupants of the Liberal benches that it would be unfair to blame their organizer for the conditions which seemed to prevail in the ranks of the party, the Attorney General recalled the story of the Irish veterinarian whose skill had made him so famous throughout his country that he was called upon to try to restore some horses that had been killed in an explosion. By taking a hoof here and a leg there he had finally succeeded in building up a fairly good horse. He selected a very fine head, but made the mistake of putting it where the tail should go, and then the ballad went on to say:

"There, there was the devil to pay,
Though his head pointed right, he still went astray,
For his feet were all going the opposite way."

"If that is the condition of the Liberal party," said Mr. Brownlee, "they should blame, not their organizer, but the interference that has come from the outside, and I only wish for the official organizer that he had another occupation in life than that of official 'sandwichman' of the Liberal party of this Province."

Mr. Dechene had made reference to the differences between the U.F.A. and the Liberal party. "There is certainly one difference that I can readily point out to him," declared the Attorney General, "and that is that the U.F.A. has no Provincial sandwichmen going up and down the length and breadth of the Province telling people that we believe in party organization, and the campaign fund."

ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TWO PARTY PLATFORMS

The attempted rejuvenation of the Liberal party had been watched with considerable interest. Having seen the platform adopted by the Liberals, members of the U.F.A. had been somewhat disappointed, for, said the Minister, "I have read that platform very carefully and have gone back and read the Conservative platform, and there is only one thing in which the Liberal Convention at Calgary did not follow the Conservative convention. The difference consisted in the omission of Clause One of the Conservative platform, which

read, "That the serious financial condition of the Province and the resultant burdensome taxation are the direct result of ill-advised policies and reckless expenditures of the Liberal administration since 1918.' The actual platforms are identical."

Examining the inaugural speech delivered by the new Liberal leader, Mr. Brownlee said he had looked in vain for some new declaration of policy. Mr. Mitchell's first criticism had been that the correspondence on Natural Resources had not been tabled before three days of the session had passed. Most of the time spent in discussing the question had been devoted to fulsome praise of the Dominion Government. The Alberta Government were informed that they should have known that settlement was needed on the Lethbridge Northern irrigation project before the work was concluded. "Why," asked Mr. Brownlee, "did not the former administration think of this before pledging the credit of the Province as they did?"

"TIME TO RETALIATE" ON THE FARMERS

Mr. Mitchell's speech had contained no word on the problem of marketing of agricultural products, no word of commendation of the Premier for his work of relief of the farmers from the burdens that were threatening to drive them from the land, and no reference was made to the great problem of the drought areas. Perhaps the reason for this lay in the following paragraph from the record of the recent Liberal Convention:

> "A resolution calling upon the Government to use every reasonable effort to remove farmers from the drought districts to irrigation districts was laid on the table, having been vigorously opposed on the ground that these farmers have already had considerable Government aid and others, without aid, had made a living in the same districts. Dr. Galbraith, the mover of the resolution, defended it, saying that the Government had guaranteed the expense of the irrigation and was sending over to Europe to get immigrants to settle these lands, while there were good settlers right near home in the drought districts. But the resolution was tabled. A. S. Shandro, speaking to this resolution, reminded the Convention that the former Government had given aid to these people, and then when the election came on they had joined forces with the Farmer Government to defeat the friends that had given them a helping hand. 'I believe that the time has come for us to retaliate for this treatment,' said Mr. Shandro."

REFUSED TO TAKE STAND ON CROW AGREEMENT

Reading farther down the record of the Liberal Convention, Mr. Brownlee showed that James Short, of Calgary, had sought to introduce a resolution deploring the action of the Railway Commissioners in setting aside the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement, and urging its restoration, but that "the Convention refused to permit the resolution to be admitted for discussion, S. G. Tobin declaring that it referred to one section and not to the whole Province, and therefore it was unwise to introduce controversial matter."

Yet, said Mr. Brownlee, Mr. Tobin had criticised the U.F.A. Government for

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cause, he said, it was not interested in railway rates. Here, at the Liberal Convention, "was a party that is appealing for the support of the people, and, on a question that may mean hundreds of thousands of dollars to the farmers of this country, it refused to take a stand because the matter was considered 'controversial.'"

Going on to deal with the amendment to the address, the Attorney General read from authorities on parliamentary practice, to the effect that such amendments were used, first as votes of want of confidence, and secondly for the purpose of enunciating some great principle of political importance.

Mr. Marshall had contended that the amendment was not a vote of want of confidence, and had invoked the Moore-Lore resolution. Yet, Mr. Brownlee said, he had pointed out when that resolution was discussed that it merely put into exact words what had been parliamentary practice for years. The Assembly could not interfere with the discretion of the Government itself in deciding when it had lost the confidence of the Assembly. There could be no question as to what the Lieutenant-Governor would do if this amendment carried. "That amendment," said the Minister, "is undoubtedly a vote of want of confidence."

Dealing with the subject of the amendment from the standpoint of "economy," Mr. Brownlee said that, on the basis of a $200 cut in indemnities, the saving it would effect would be .0018 of 1 per cent., or eighteen-thousandths of the total expenditure. It was impossible to vote for a motion for a cut which did not specify the amount of the cut.

After pointing out that Mr. Davidson's resolution two sessions ago had received scant support, Mrs. McClung being the only other member voting for it, Mr. Brownlee called attention to the resolution moved at the Liberal convention held a few months ago, by Mr. Pelton, of Edmonton. This resolution, calling for a cut in the indemnity and in Ministers' salaries, found a seconder, and twenty votes, and Mr. Pelton himself, following the convention, announced that, "This one thing means that the Liberal party considers the sessional indemnity of the Provincial members of the Legislature none too high at present, that they consider the Cabinet Ministers are not paid any too much at present."

LIBERAL LEADER "WAS NOT PRESENT"

"I would ask the leader of the opposition whether he supported the Pelton resolution," said Mr. Brownlee.

"Unfortunately," declared Mr. Mitchell, amid laughter, "I was not present."

Mr. Brownlee then directed himself to Mr. Tobin, asking whether he had supported the Pelton resolution. Mr. Tobin, rising with some hesitancy, answered that he "supported the Liberal platform." Mr. Marshall protested against the searching "cross-examination" to which, he considered, himself and his colleagues were being subjected, but Mr. Mitchell rested content, and, for the rest, left his followers to do battle with the Attorney General for the most part without his active aid. Mr. Marshall said he had voted for the Pelton resolution, but would not say that he had spoken in favor of it, while George Mills declared that he would deal with the matter in a speech to follow. Mr. Giroux, when his turn for examination came, did not answer. Mr. Dechene made an indefinite response to the questioning, when his turn came, but Mr. Henry asserted that he "had won his election on that platform."

It was strange, then, replied Mr. Brownlee, that Mr. Henry should have beaten Mr. Pelton, the originator of the platform, in the recent by-election.

"Will the Minister accept our vote on this amendment as the answer?" asked Mr. Marshall.

"No," was the reply, "for no person can vote on this amendment intelligently."

INCREASED EXPENDITURE MILLION DOLLARS IN 1921

Mr. Brownlee was amused that the demand for a general cutting down of all expenditure should come from the Liberal leader, because, in a speech in 1920, Mr. Mitchell had said he "could see no present hope of cutting down any services," and in 1921, after admitting that expenditure could not be cut down, proved his statement by increasing expenditure by two million dollars. "That," said the Attorney General, "is the record of the gentleman who, after standing with a white flag in his hand, and declaring himself helpless, now comes to the people of this Province to declare that if they will only return him to office he will balance the budget."

Mr. Marshall: "You bet we will!"

Mr. Brownlee:

"For frantic boast and foolish word,
Thy mercy on Thy people, Lord."

"Speaking generally," continued Mr. Brownlee, "I do not believe that the people of this Province want us to do anything unless it is right, and when it comes to a question of reduction of indemnities and salaries I will take my stand, but right at the present moment I want to offer a strong word of warning that from my experience I have come to the conclusion that one of the perils of democracy today is cheap labor and cheap employment.

PRIVILEGED CLASSES AND WORKING PEOPLE

"In England there was a class that looked upon it as their particular privilege to rule, and from that you have the idea that magistrates and justices of the peace and members of the Legis-

laters should serve without salary. One of the great problems that this department has to face is that we cannot get men who are competent to do that work. The great majority of our people are working men and women; they are earning their daily bread. They are prepared to do their share, but we find today that they are saying, 'Pay us what it is worth.' I am working on that problem today, studying and rearranging magistrates so that we can put them in the field and pay them what they are worth.

WILL GET EXACTLY WHAT THEY PAY FOR

"With regard to the seasonal indemnity, the people of this Province are going to get just exactly what they pay for. I don't care what the people may say, I find that the people of Alberta are kindly disposed to any man who honestly tells them what he thinks. Well, if they make it $1200, they will get that much service; if they make it $1400 they will get that much service; if they make it $2000 they will get what they pay for, and one of the reasons why we do not have better men and women in politics today is that men and women who are adapted for this work cannot afford to give up their daily employment because it does not pay them to do so."

Mr. Brownlee said that if he had his way about it he would get for the administration of public affairs the very best men available, and pay them accordingly. It was a most fortunate thing for Canada that the Dominion Government had courage enough to get Sir Henry Thornton and pay him what he was worth.

Mr. Marshall asked why there had been a cut in the salaries in the civil service, to which Mr. Brownlee replied that he would deal with this matter when the occasion arose in the Assembly.

Dealing with Mr. Milnes' criticism of the previous week, the Attorney General referred to the cost of the public audit—$41,000—and said that a definite contract had been made with this firm, that the average total assistance charged up was no more than $4.27 a day. If the Government had known then as much as they knew now they might have been in a better position to make a flat contract, inclusive of all expenses.

But, against the cost of $41,000 in 1921-22 was to be set an immediate direct saving of $10,000 by the discovery of a loss in the accounts between the Liquor Branch and a firm of distillers, this money being duly collected. That reduced the cost to $31,000. Then, there was inaugurated a system of accounting which had cut down the cost of audit from $115,000 to $95,000 a year, a saving of $20,000 annually. When the Government came into office, in some cases succession duties had not been paid for ten years after they became due, owing to an imperfect filing system which had been changed by the new Government. In view of all these facts the audit had been, not an extravagance, but a very real economy. It was true economy to spend $41,000 in a lump sum to save $20,000 annually afterwards.

Discussing the Debt Adjustment Act, Mr. Brownlee said that for the $15,000 charged to this account, which Mr. Milnes described as an extravagance, work had been done to keep on their lands many farmers who would otherwise have been compelled to leave. In 1923 and 1924 alone, $105,000 had been distributed for farmers who otherwise would have been unable to carry on.

Mr. Brownlee remarked that Mr. Henry, in his plea for "business administration", had undoubtedly demonstrated that he himself was a business man, and an admirable mayor of Edmonton, for had he not "given the Assembly a certificate to this effect, signed and sealed and delivered by himself?" Did he suggest that because he was the only mayor who had been able to reduce expenditure, he was the only business mayor Edmonton has had? Were not the bankruptcy laws of this country framed for "business men"?

FARMERS' BUSINESS ABILITY AND THE WHEAT POOL

"I suppose," the Attorney General added, "you read in the paper that a certain organization had recently declared an interim payment on wheat of 35 cents a bushel, amounting to $35,000,000. When you get an organization paying that you can take it for granted that it is a large business concern. It is operated and carried on by farmers, and I think the farmers' organization can be congratulated on the business ability shown in organizing and carrying on this great enterprise. I do not take it for granted that because this Government consists of farmers it has no business ability."

Mr. Brownlee deprecated the suggestion made by the Liberals that "it was a good thing there was a Liberal Government in Ottawa," when the Natural Resources question was dealt with, for Liberal Governments in Alberta had received fair treatment when Conservative Governments were in office in the Dominion. The present Government did not think they had got for the Province all it was entitled to, but had accepted because it was better that the discussion should not be drawn out for an indefinite length of time. He was very hopeful that the transfer of the resources would shortly take place.

DANGER OF OVER-ESTIMATING VALUE OF RESOURCES

It was necessary to give warning against the danger of overestimating the immediate realizable value of the resources. They were revenue makers for the future, rather than the present, he said, pointing out that in 1922 oil and similar revenues cost $1,366,000 to collect, although they totalled only $995,606, while in 1923 a total of $1,293,000 was spent in collecting $960,000, and in the oil boom year of 1914 it cost $2,128,000 to collect $1,808,000.

Speaking on the Crow's Nest Pass rates, Mr. Brownlee said that a period of discrimination was anticipated, following the successful fight for the restoration of the rates, but it was necessary first to establish the statutory maximum, and then to see that the discrimination was removed. If the railways had succeeded in having the agreement abrogated, the next move would have been for a further increase of rates. While the importance of the Western route was recognized, it was nevertheless true that for many years to come a large part of the native crops and livestock must be shipped east.

Speaking of the successful fight for reduction of mountain rates, Mr. Brownlee said he did not care whether British Columbia were given all the credit or not, so long as the reduction was won. He saw great possibilities in the development of the Oriental trade. Nobody could read the report of the inquiry into the charges made by the Alberta Government through Mr. Van Allen without coming to the conclusion that practically every charge made contained truth. As a result of it practically every official of importance in the handling of grain was removed.

Mr. Brownlee said that in the effort to solve the problem of the northern railways, no one had worked harder than the Premier. It had been suggested that the railways should be sold, but that was more easily said than done.

MADE PLANS TO COLONIZE LETHBRIDGE NORTHERN

Referring to the Lethbridge Northern irrigation enterprise, he pointed out that the Liberals had financed the project to the extent of $5,000,000 without having gone into the question of colonization. The Government was now obligated to spend $5,000,000 annually until such time as the scheme could stand on its own feet. The services of Dr. Widstoe, who had been the vice-chairman of a Commission appointed by the Washington Government to inquire into the irrigation problems of the United States, had been engaged by the Alberta Government, who were hopeful of having his report at an early date.

HOW DOMINION DEALT WITH MINERAL TAX ACT

Dealing with the disallowance of the Mineral Tax Act by the Dominion Government, Mr. Brownlee read a telegram of January, 1924, to the Minister of Justice, stating that in view of the approaching session the Alberta Government would appreciate a decision. Long before this the reply of the Alberta Government to the petition for disallowance had been filed. A letter was received stating the petition was being considered. The Alberta Government had made provision in the estimates for $400,000 as the yield from the tax. Yet the first intimation that the Federal law officers favored disallowance came in a newspaper report of April 10th. Premier Greenfield wired expressing his hope that the report was not well founded, as the decision was vital to all Provincial Governments, since it involved the question whether taxation measures within the jurisdiction of a Provincial Government were to be reviewed by the Federal Government. The Government got a reply which simply said that the Attorney General had already sent in his representations. Then the Alberta Legislature adjourned, and a few days later the Alberta Government were notified that the act was disallowed. "And we found, when we went to Ottawa," said Mr. Brownlee, "and checked up the report in the Department of Justice that the only ground for disallowance was that the act conflicted with Dominion policies. Neither one of the companies which had petitioned against it had raised this objection. They put their case entirely on the ground that the act was confiscatory. The Department of Justice knew it was not well founded, and put their decision for disallowance on a ground that we had

never been allowed to answer, namely that it interfered with Dominion policy. Yet as long ago as 1869, Sir John A. Macdonald laid down the policy, which had been followed consistently since, that the proper course was to refer an act objected to on such grounds back to the Province before disallowance, and to give them a chance to be heard and to make any change in the act."

DID NOT RECEIVE TREATMENT TO WHICH ENTITLED

Mr. Brownlee further revealed the fact that the report of the Department of Justice advising disallowance was dated February 2nd, and had thus been ready about the time when the session of the Legislature opened. "Yet," he added, "this Assembly adjourned before we were given an intimation that the Act was disallowed. I wish to say that in my humble opinion we did not receive the consideration to which we were entitled. The Dominion Government had this matter before them for one year, and disallowed the act one day before the end.

With reference to the disallowance by the Privy Council in London of the Dominion Elections Act, Mr. Brownlee suggested that there should be a conference between the Provinces and the Dominion to decide on a policy for the future. Provincial legislation might be found necessary.

TO REMEDY ONE DEFECT IN TAX RECOVERY ACT

Mr. Brownlee said that Mr. Reid had developed a new principle of Tax Recovery, on the theory that the land first goes to the municipality, and that the municipality would probably take a more kindly attitude towards the owner, and be more lenient than speculators who formerly could come into the Province and buy at tax sales. Some unfortunate cases had arisen, due to one defect only in the new act, and this defect would be removed at the present session. In principle the new act was sounder than any other in force in Canada. It gave the owner three months longer to recover his land than the old act did. It had been suggested that the land should be forfeited to the crown instead of to the municipality, so that the crown could say, "It is true you have lost your land, but if you are making an honest effort to work out your problem we will give you a certain number of years in which to do so."

In closing Mr. Brownlee touched upon the great problem of Government, which he believed to be the encouragement of the people in the practice of doing things for themselves. "We in Canada today," he said, "both in Alberta and elsewhere, are being troubled by a confusion of voices." He believed that when the history of Canada came to be written a hundred years from now, it would be found that while every country had its ups and downs, no country had struggled more heroically for existence than Canada. He deplored the fact that sectionalism had reared its head in some places. The greatest problem was to obtain greater co-operation between the Provinces, and a closer relationship between the Dominion and Provincial Governments.

There were those who said that all problems could be solved by dealing with the financial problem. While he believed that the interest rate was too high, Mr. Brownlee believed that if it were necessary to wait for fundamental financial reforms, the people would wander in the wilderness for another forty years. Others sought amendment of the bankruptcy laws, and something must be done here. Long term credits were recommended, and these, in their own sphere, would give some relief. All these things, however, must be correlated, and attention turned to the development of our resources both in minerals and in agriculture.

DON'T CARE WHO IS GIVEN THE CREDIT

Referring to the Wheat Pool, the Minister said that he believed he was interpreting the desire of those responsible when he said that they did not care who was given the credit for its success, but they did say that it should be kept out of politics in Alberta.

Mr. Brownlee commended the efforts made by Mr. Hoadley as Minister of Agriculture, to find new markets for Alberta products, and said he believed that in market possibilities in the Orient in particular, Alberta was "on the threshold of opportunity."

GIROUX'S MAIDEN SPEECH IS WELL RECEIVED

L. A. Giroux, Grouard (Liberal), made a decidedly good impression on the Assembly in a well-delivered maiden speech which brought a round of applause from the members, though an effort to drag the Wheat Pool into politics on the ground that members of this organization had also, in their capacity as members of the U. F. A., participated in electoral activities, was generally regretted.

Mr. Giroux dealt with the recent by-election in his opening remarks. He said that the leader of the U. F. A., who was also head of the Wheat Pool, the leader of the Government, and various U. F. A. members of the Legislature who were actively promoting new pooling enterprises, had spoken for the U. F. A. candidate in the Grouard campaign, and resented the fact that these U. F. A. members, being connected with co-operative marketing organizations, were also in politics. He read from the literature of the Farmers' Union of Canada in support of his claim that the organized farmers should not as an organization participate in political action, and remarked that Squire had begged the Pools to keep out of politics. He declared that in the Grouard by-election a deputy returning officer at Fahler had struck from the voters' list the names of some voters favorable to the Liberals and added the names of some others who favored the U. F. A., and complained that the returning officer had abolished a poll at Wabasca, and compelled voters to cross a lake to vote, while at St. Bruno voters had to go to Faust, to which there was no road.

Mr. Giroux dwelt on the need for railway development in the North, and for a Pacific outlet for the Peace River country and asked the Government to provide money for construction of a highway from Edmonton to McLennan. He advocated an aggressive immigration campaign, and called for the repeal of the Tax Recovery Act.

FORSTER ON ADJUSTMENT OF ELECTORAL INEQUALITIES

In a brief speech, G. A. Forster, Hand Hills (U. F. A.), analyzed the statistics of population in the various Provincial constituencies, showing the need for the adjustment of present serious inequalities when redistribution takes place. He believed that equalization should precede any consideration of a cut in indemnities, but at the same time agreed that the difficult constituencies of the North should not be required to have as many people as constituencies which were more readily accessible to members visiting their constituencies.

Mr. Forster claimed that members resident in Edmonton were not entitled to receive as large remuneration as rural members. Edmonton members lived near the Legislature, in the heart of easily accessible constituencies, and need incur no extra expense to visit the Government departments either during or between sessions. The member created a diversion by referring to the bills for telephone service on members' passes, credited to the Telephone Department, but did not read the amount of those bills.

While dealing with the re-establishment in the drought area, Mr. Forster told the Assembly that these districts could not be entirely depopulated, that there were in them settlers who remained through the survival of the fittest, and through the nature of their holdings, improvements, and location, intended to stay in these districts. It was the duty of the Provincial and Dominion Governments to first give consideration to these citizens, along the following lines:

Amendment to the Bankruptcy Act, long term loans, consideration of cancellation of certain taxes, amendments to the Wild Lands Tax Act, the leasing of adjacent lands to the settlers for grazing purposes under suitable regulations, and last, but not least, protection against any large rancher or outsider securing leases for grazing purposes on these lands, which the settlers who will remain there were entitled to.

Mr. Forster said further that a policy is long past due for a new system of educational grants, on a basis of equality to every school in the Province, and trusted that at a very early date an announcement would be made by the Government along these lines, to give relief to the troubled minds of these heroic settlers. Seed grain advances might be made along the lines suggested by the member from Redcliff.

DISAPPROVE OF ACTION OF R. R. O.

T. St. Arnaud, St. Albert (U. F. A.), repudiated the suggestion that difficulty had been experienced in polling the votes in Grouard, where the election had been properly fought. He did not approve of the action of the deputy returning officer at Fahler, in adding names to the list after it was closed, though he did not believe it was the intention of that officer to be unfair.

He hoped that the Government would take all necessary steps to prevent anything of this kind occurring again.

Referring to a suggestion by Mr. Giroux, that many farmers did not join the Wheat Pool because of any supposed "U. F. A. domination," Mr. St. Arnaud said that in his experience there was no objection on any such ground, but that the farmers were too poor in many cases to wait for the second and later pay-

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Senate Reform Very Real Issue to Farmer, Labor and Independent Members of the Commons

Irvine's Resolution on Change in House Rules Suitable Only to Two Party System Leads to Appointment of Committee to Consider Revision—Freight Rates and Grain Act Command Attention—Rural Credits Not Yet Before Parliament

By D. W. Warner, U. F. A. Member for Strathcona

Senate reform is considered a real issue by the Independent, Labor and Farmer members as well as the more liberal minded of the old party members. It depends largely on Ontario and Quebec owing to their heavier population, but does not look impossible when we consider that it is only a matter of legislation, and the request to have our Constitution amended by the British Parliament is not a legislative enactment on our part.

SENATE CANNOT PREVENT AMENDMENT

Apparently all that the Senate can do in this case is to appeal to the British legislators against the wishes of the Canadian people. Provided a conference in which all the Provinces are represented decide that they wish the Constitution amended and petition the Mother Parliament through their representatives in the Canadian Parliament to so amend it, it is then up to the British Parliament to decide as to whether they will please the Canadian people or the Canadian Senators if the Senate opposes the measure. The end in view is to leave the B. N. A. Act in such a form that changes can be made by ourselves as we desire hereafter.

The Ministers, while admitting the necessity of economy in the maintenance of the Dominion Government, also complain of their inability to cut down expenditures on account of so much of it being uncontrollable. However, the Farmer members are still stressing their demands that expenses be cut where it can be done without seriously impairing the efficiency of the Government.

PARLIAMENT MUST FULLY RESTORE AGREEMENT

The Crow's Nest Pass Agreement is only partially saved by the Courts. Parliament will now have a chance to re-establish it in full by bringing the rest of the rates down to the old level of what they were before the suspension of that famous agreement. It is to be hoped we will not sustain any more such surprises as that which we experienced when suspension was allowed to lapse during the last session; namely, the tactics used by the railway operators by not allowing it to apply on all lines as it used to do.

When the estimates of the Minister of Agriculture were under discussion, the grading of butter and cheese for home consumption as well as for export was well gone into. It was felt that our own people should not be compelled to use so much inferior butter and cheese of too low a grade for export as is now left in Canada, and that a system of grading for home use would in a manner help the situation by improving quality.

Mr. Shaw's divorce bill brought on a very contentious debate, some of the members holding that it would encourage and increase the number of divorces in the four Western Provinces, the only part of Canada to which it applies. Others pointed out very clearly that the only effect the bill could possibly have was to place the sexes in equal position as far as grounds for divorce were concerned.

> In the second of the series of articles by U. F. A. members of the House of Commons, Mr. Warner presents an interesting review of the issues before Parliament at the present session. The next article will be by L. H. Jelliff, M. P.

TO CONSIDER REVISION OF OUTWARD RATES

Mr. Irvine's resolution calling for changes in the rules of the House in order to bring them more nearly in line with present needs, was headed off by an amendment offered by the Prime Minister, asking that the subject be referred to a committee in conjunction with the Speaker to work out the needed changes and report to the House. Parliament has now four groups, as well as several independent members, and the rules as they now stand were formulated for two parties only.

The idea of housing a binder twine factory in Manitoba precipitated an interesting discussion, centering around the principle rather than the amount of the grant. However, the fact as to whether the industry could be successfully established and supported in connection with common farming as carried on in that Province, with or without a bonus, was not determined. While it was considered a desirable undertaking there was a doubt expressed as to whether it could be made a successful enterprise.

In the discussion of the estimates of the Minister of Trade and Commerce the unsatisfactory method in use at present to determine the selling value of our wheat, the superficial examination to decide the grade it should go in, instead of a scientific milling test which could establish the real value in a satisfactory manner, was pretty thoroughly aired. This should be of use when the Grain Act is being overhauled. It was pointed out that grain going West, through Edmonton in particular, did not receive as high a grade as when going to Winnipeg. The Minister admitted that he had had complaints in regard to this matter which he had investigated, with the result that the Grain Board and graders had denied the charge, but it will take more than their denial to make the Western shipper believe he is getting a square deal.

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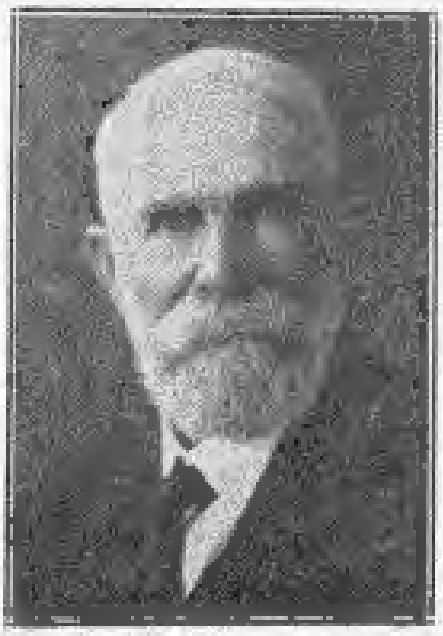

D. W. WARNER, M.P.

Organization News

> Don't forget University Week for Farm Young People June 3rd to 8th. The Conference Field is now open. That means that every Senior Local has the happy privilege of paying $5.00, or more, to help pay the railway expenses of the U. F. A. Junior delegates.

CONVENTION IN GRANDE PRAIRIE

The annual convention of the Grande Prairie U. F. A. District Association will be held on March 27th and 28th, in the Oddfellows' Hall, Grande Prairie.

GREENLEAF LOCAL FORMED

F. J. Ferguson assisted in the organization of Greenleaf Local, in the Trochu district. J. A. Swanson and C. J. Gribling were elected officers.

RE-ENACT MINERAL RIGHTS TAX

EDMONTON, March 11.—Mr. Reid announced in his Budget speech that the Mineral Rights Tax, disallowed by the Dominion Government, would be re-enacted in a new form, and that any amounts collected under this tax in 1925 would be additional to the revenue already estimated.

Accounts of Alberta From Formation of Province Carefully Analyzed In Provincial Balance Sheet

Notes From Wheat Pool Head Office

Road Contracts Minus Figures on Highways Expenditure in 1962

[illegible] Amendment
[illegible] Defeated by 4.2 to
[illegible] on Division

[illegible]

[illegible]

Assembly Demands Maximum Freight Rates Retained

Important Resolution on Freight Rates Adopted—Legislature Considers Case of Student Who Withdrew From University

FRIDAY'S SITTING.

[illegible]

SPECIAL COURSE ON BACON HOGS

to be held at the

DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARM, LACOMBE

TWO DAYS

Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27

Under the Auspices of

Dominion Livestock Branch, Dominion Experimental Farm, Lacombe, Provincial Department of Agriculture and the Faculty of Agriculture of the University

Course is Entirely FREE to all Breeders

SPECIAL DEMONSTRATIONS IN BACON HOGS.

It is full from cover to cover with high quality merchandise both for general wear and for the home.

Dr C. E. Messenger
CHIROPRACTOR
Chronic Cases a Specialty
X-Ray Laboratory in Office
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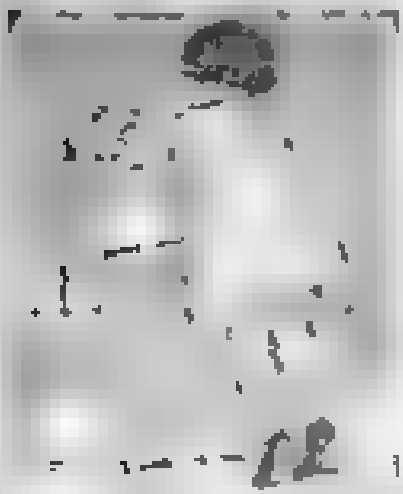
STRYCHNINE
[illegible]



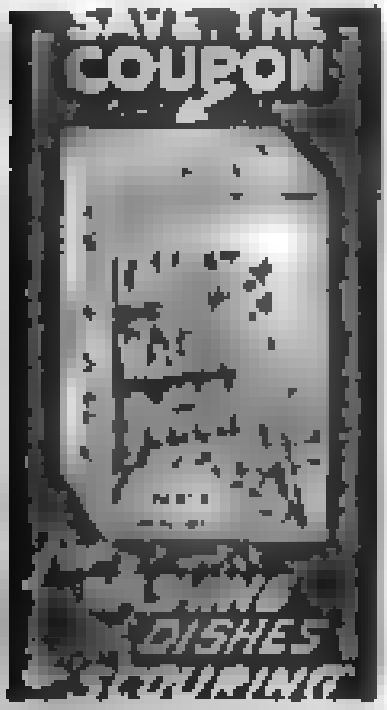
BUSSLER'

ROBIN HOOD

The Money Back

FLOUR

Ewing Appeals to Calgary Locals for Special Effort in Organization



...ity, and Mr. Davidson asked whether an inquiry was being made into the matter.

Perren Baker, Minister of Education, said he knew nothing of the affair except what had appeared in a newspaper, but it seemed that the student had offended against the discipline regulation of the Students' Council, who had powers of self-government in the University. The indignity, it appeared, was imposed in a playful spirit on all new students. Answering Mr. Marshall, the minister said that the Students' Council had no power to suspend a student, though a recommendation from them might go a long way with the Senate.

ACTION A DISGRACE, SAYS HOADLEY

George Hoadley described the incident as a disgrace, and read the newspaper report in full, while N. S. Smith, after describing the form of organization adopted in the University, said he believed it possible that the fun incidental to initiation might be carried too far. Mr. Giroux thought the matter should be left entirely in the hands of the University, while Russell Love remarked that student self-government was a good thing in itself, and if it were taken away, conditions would be less satisfactory. G. N. Johnston said that the conduct of the student was in contempt of the highest disciplinary court of the University. The matter should not be taken too seriously, as the initiation was only intended to be taken in fun.

George Mills thought the form of initiation ridiculous, and asked how new members of the Assembly would like to be subjected to a similar humiliation. A. G. Andrews, who said he had gone through initiation in Great Britain, thought a manly kind of initiation could not be objected to, but that no man should be called upon to make himself a public clown, as this man was.

WHITE ASKS FOR INQUIRY BY COMMITTEE

Pointing that the matter should not be left to the Minister, F. J. White said that conditions at the University were not right in certain respects, and urged that a committee of the Assembly be appointed to inquire into University affairs in general in the fullest possible manner. The University should be exonerated or the blame placed where it belonged. A number of members endorsed the proposal. A. M. Matheson thought that if the student were a good citizen, entitled to admission, and had been guilty of no civil misdemeanor he had a right to attend to his own business at the University and to be left alone.

Remarking that the Assembly was wasting time by discussing the merits of "hazing", Mr. Davidson said that a good plan would be for the Minister of Education to make an inquiry without fuss or ceremony, and report to the Legislature. Mr. Baker intimated that he proposed to do this, and the discussion ended.

The chief purpose of the University Act amendment bill, which was reported, is to add four new members to the Senate, these being the Deputy Ministers of Agriculture and Public Health, the Director of the Extension Department, and the Chairman of the Freshmen's Committee.

LACOMBE AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The Assembly in Committee of the Whole discussed and reported a bill for an advance to the Lacombe and North Western Railway of $[illegible] for construction, and of $[illegible] for maintenance in 1925, and confirming the advance of $5,000 made to the railway in 1924 which was provided for in the estimates last year, but not supported by legislation. The bill provides for an extension of 10 miles from the neighborhood of Mile 60.

Other bills passed through Committee of the Whole were:

A bill to provide for an advance of $150,000 to the A. & G. W. Railway for the purpose of maintenance upkeep and equipment.

A bill to amend the Stock Inspection Act, by changing a hide dealers' license in such a way that it permits travelling around the province, and also requiring a bond from hide dealers.

A bill to amend the Mental Defective Act, by providing for half-yearly reports to the medical superintendent of the Provincial

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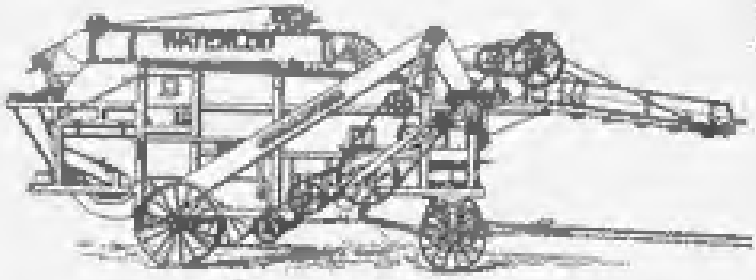

It is with pleasure we announce the opening of a Branch Office and Warehouse at Calgary, Alberta. Hundreds of our old and recent friends in the sunny Western Province will receive a hearty welcome when calling or communicating with our new organization. We plan to better serve our old friends and invite all interested to visit our Calgary Office and get acquainted with the better line of Farm Power and Threshing Machinery. Large stocks of Machinery and Repairs will be carried for the convenience of our old friends and new customers to be. Our full line is complete in every detail. We offer the buying public only what we consider the best at lower than usual price and on suitable terms of sale.

Write our Calgary Branch for New Machinery Catalogues and a 1925 Calendar, All Free on request. Remember the address:

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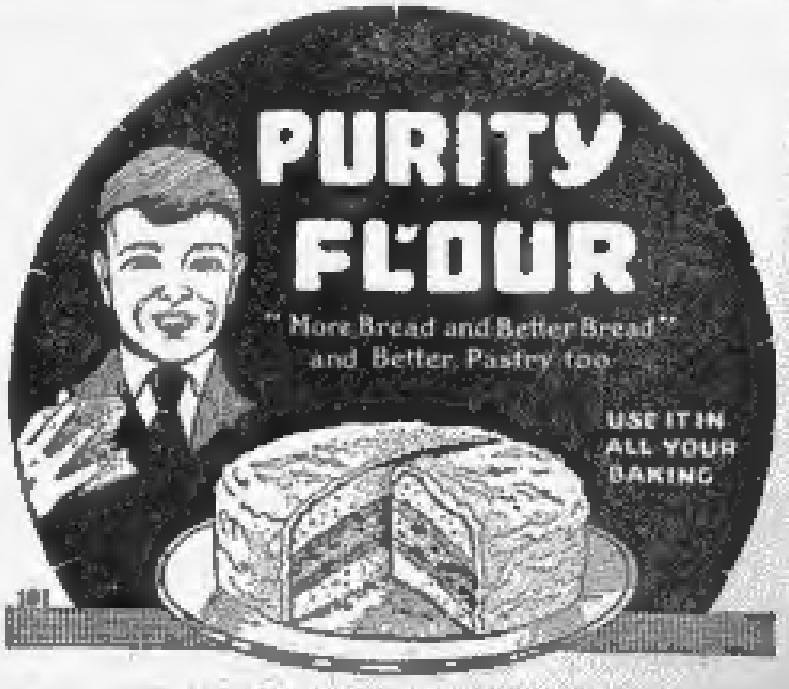

Canadian Pacific Rates on Livestock

FIFTY-FIVE per cent of the traffic of Western Canada is handled in the last four months of the year.

This great congestion of traffic must be prepared for by maintaining the cars and locomotives necessary to handle it promptly. This equipment, and the capital investment therein, is necessarily idle for a large part of the year.

During those same four months the roads of the United States handled one-third of the total cars loaded during the year, or just the normal average.

Traffic uniformly distributed and capital thus kept employed resulted, on the United States railways, in higher car mileage and higher ton-mile earnings than on Canadian roads.

Yet, measured on Canadian Pacific standards, the returns to Canadian railways are the lowest on the continent.

Take, for instance, the rates on livestock, which are recognized as unremunerative. Besides having low rates, in comparison with other carload freight, livestock requires special service and facilities, both in road haul and terminals. Special cars are required and there is also a great deal of empty return car haulage, which is practically 100%, because cattle cars are unsuited for any other freight.

Still, in August, 1921, the rates on livestock in effect prior to September 13th, 1920, were restored. This reduced basis was authorized after very careful consideration of the importance, from a national standpoint, of co-operation with the livestock industry and the necessity for preserving the breeding, dairy and feeding herds on Canadian farms, thus maintaining the fertility of the land.

On other traffic the rates in Eastern Canada are still 25 per cent higher, and in Western Canada 20 per cent higher, than those in effect prior to September 13th, 1920, except some basic commodities, which are 17½ per cent higher.

Always the Canadian Pacific is ready to co-operate with the public in building up and encouraging industry.

The Canadian Pacific has a real interest in developing the livestock industry in the country, because in the long run it means more traffic for the road.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

It Spans the World

DEWA

training school with regard to the mental condition of any person removed from an institution, for parole of mentally defective persons, for reports to be given by school inspectors on mentally defective children, in order that a census may be made of them.

Second reading was given to a number of private bills.

PROVINCIAL TREASURER IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH PRESENTS ESTIMATES FOR YEAR 1925

(Continued from Page 1)

service concerned.

Mr. Reid repeated the warning which had previously been given, that the turning over of the natural resources to Provincial jurisdiction should not be expected to bring any increase in Provincial revenue for a considerable time to come. He made mention of the fact that during the past two or three years certain grants formerly received from the Federal Government have been discontinued. There seemed to be a general tendency in this direction, the Federal Government practising economy at the expense of the Provinces.

PROVINCIAL BORROWINGS IN YEAR 1924

The net bonded debt was increased during the year 1924 by $5,129,162.44. The borrowings were: Public Buildings, Sites and Public Works, $1,531,265.69; Advances to Railways, $1,383,365.43; University Endowment Lands, $1,561,131.34, against which items are to be set off capital receipts during the year. The net debt of the Province stood at $79,811,944.21, annual net increases since the year 1921 having been as follows: 1921, increase $14,101,524.43; 1922, increase $4,311,585.32; 1923, increase $6,695,317.31; 1924, increase $5,129,162.44.

Uncontrollable charges (charges for public debts, including charges for the University of Alberta, had increased very largely during the past few years, and would continue to increase. The automatic increase in the railway indebtedness was now in the neighborhood of one million dollars a year, and this must be paid by new borrowings. In addition large advances have been made to the railways for re-conditioning.

COURSE ON BACON HOGS

On March 16th and 17th, at the Dominion Experimental Farm, Lacombe, a special course on bacon hogs will be held under the auspices of the Dominion Livestock Branch, Dominion Experimental Farm, Provincial Department of Agriculture and the Faculty of Agriculture of the University.

MOUNTAIN FREIGHT RATES

With reference to the resolution on transportation rates passed by the Annual Convention, which asked that freight rates on the Canadian National from Edmonton to New Westminster be adjusted in proportion to the cost of hauling, the secretary of the Board of Railway Commissioners has written to Miss F. Bateman, acting secretary of the U. F. A., as follows:

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 11th instant enclosing copy of resolution adopted at the Annual Convention of the United Farmers of Alberta, at its session last month, and hasten to assure you that the Board is in full sympathy with the object of the resolution.

"The Board took the initial step of obtaining an equality of freight rates involving, we hope, the removal of all Mountain Differential, but as our action has been held up by appeal in the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement matter we have to await its disposition until we know exactly where we stand. I feel confident that we will be able to attain the full object of your resolution, as well as more satisfactory freight rate conditions than have ever previously obtained, as soon as the ground is cleared and we are able to proceed with the work, knowing just what we have to meet.

"May I further say that the Board will welcome any further suggestion on the part of your organization at any time you may be good enough to favor us with the same."

"When a stupid man is doing something he is ashamed of, he always declares that it is his duty."—Bernard Shaw.

REDUCED PRICES FOR ORGANIZATION SONGS

Equal Rights For All, and The Farmers' Movement.

Words and Music, per copy.....10c

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NORTHERN TESTED SEED

Brome, No. 1, Gov. Stan., per 100			$14.00
Western Rye,	"	"	11.00
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SENATE REFORM VERY REAL ISSUE TO FARMER, LABOR AND INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF COMMONS

(Continued from Page 14)

FARMER MEMBERS WILL PRESS FOR RURAL CREDITS

The Rural Credits proposition has not yet been discussed in the House. But there is apparently enough information now available through Dr. Tory's investigations and from other sources to justify going ahead with the scheme at this session. The Farmer members are anxious to obtain some workable system of Rural Credits and will leave no stone unturned to push it along.

The discussion of Mr. Good's resolution asking for the prohibition of race track gambling lasted throughout the day on Monday and until well after midnight. After the main motion had had considerable attention, an amendment was offered and carried, against the Speaker's ruling to be challenged. Later an amendment to the amendment followed and was lost. Then, before the main motion was put as amended, another amendment was offered which the mover tried to withdraw, but was not permitted to by the seconder and the House, as it was put and not, the House having divided four times, including the vote on the Speaker's ruling, in which he was sustained. The motion as amended was put and carried without division. Intense confusion existed until the matter was disposed of, the complication beginning at the time the first amendment was offered having the request for a very different form of legislation to that for which the original motion called.

A Treaty between Canada and the United States was approved. It was designed to prevent smuggling both ways across the border and prevent lawbreakers crossing the line either way to escape justice. It is designed to make extradition easier also. Mr. Furman says he thinks it beyond human ingenuity to prevent smuggling altogether, that all he expects the Treaty to do is to reduce it to a minimum. He was asked to give us free trade. The request raised a laugh, but the Minister could not surrender so much revenue at the present time, although he thought it quite human to long for free trade.

There was a very interesting discussion regarding ocean freight rates on March 3rd. The move was apparently approved and justified by practically the whole House. There was a doubt in the mind of some as to whether the subsidy offered by the Government and the few ships it would control could accomplish the reduction, even if our whole merchant marine worked with the subsidized boats. The reason for this was the small amount of freight which could be handled. However, the discussion was not finished, and the matter is likely to go to a select committee to be put in shape for the House to finally pass on it. The Farmer members have not had anything to say on it yet, but are without doubt friendly to any reasonable practical scheme to reduce rates, and will not try to make political capital out of the subject when it comes back to the House to shape to be dealt with.

BANK THAT PRIVATE CREDIT CONTROL BE ENDED

Mr. Woodsworth's resolution asking that the issue of currency and the control of credit be taken out of the hands of private corporations was debated on March 4th. Though well championed by several Labor and Farmer members, and objected to just as energetically by others, there was no conclusion reached, because 6 o'clock cut off the debate and no night session, it being Wednesday. It is now uncertain when the question will come up again.

One outstanding feature of this session is that there has been better progress made than usual. Everyone seems to be anxious to get on with the work, but the main reason for this uncommon advance is that only one-third the time was spent in discussing the matter contained in the speech from the Throne.

It is just as well, because every item will get its share of attention when it comes before the House in the regular way.

Please notify Central Office of any change in name or address of your Local Secretary.

Illustrating the Modern Fireproof Canadian Government Elevator at Edmonton.

BY

—why pay for a long freight haul on water, dirt and dockage?

when you can have your grain dried, cleaned, graded and weighed and get your Government Grade and Weight Certificate at

Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon or Moose Jaw

by shipping to the CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ELEVATOR at the nearest of these cities. You are then relieved of all responsibility for loss in weight or grade through leakage or damage in transit on the long rail haul from Interior Elevator to the Canadian Government Elevator, Port Arthur, and you

SAVE MONEY

because you pay freight only on clean marketable grain.

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at 1/30 per bushel
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These are your own elevators—owned by the people of Canada. They are modern, fireproof structures, completely equipped for quick and efficient handling. Conveniently located for re-shipping.

Further information will gladly be furnished if you will address an inquiry to the Canadian Government Elevators at Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Calgary or Edmonton; or to the Head Office, 811 Grain Exchange, Port William.

Notice to Wheat Pool Members

What Is Your Freight Rate to Vancouver?

Initial Payment Price List No. 4 for "Street Wheat" 1924-25. Effective March 16th, 1925.

The initial payment you should receive from your Elevator Agent on wagon load lots is listed below, according to the grade of your grain and your freight rate to Vancouver.

All settlements are made on the Vancouver basis whether your wheat is shipped East or West.

STUDY THIS LIST AND KNOW WHAT IS COMING TO YOU.

WAGON LOAD LOTS

VANCOUVER RATE	12½c	13½c 31c	14½c 32c	16c	17c	18c	19c	27c	28c	29½c
One Nor.	1.16½	1.15½	1.15	1.14	1.13½	1.10½	1.09	1.07½	1.06½	1.06
Two Nor.	1.13½	1.12½	1.12	1.11	1.10½	1.07½	1.06	1.04½	1.03½	1.03
Three Nor.	1.08½	1.07½	1.07	1.06	1.05½	1.02½	1.01	.99½	.98½	.98
No. 4	1.00½	.99½	.99	.98	.97½	.94½	.93	.91½	.90½	.90
No. 5	.93½	.92½	.92	.91	.90½	.87½	.86	.84½	.83½	.83
No. 6	.87½	.86½	.86	.85	.84½	.81½	.80	.78½	.77½	.77
Feed Wheat	.81½	.80½	.80	.79	.78½	.75½	.74	.72½	.71½	.71
One Durum	1.08½	1.07½	1.07	1.06	1.05½	1.02½	1.01	.99½	.98½	.98
Two Durum	1.05½	1.04½	1.04	1.03	1.02½	.99½	.98	.96½	.95½	.95
Three Durum	1.00½	.99½	.99	.98	.97½	.94½	.93	.91½	.90½	.90
One Alta. Red	1.11½	1.10½	1.10	1.09	1.08½	1.05½	—	—	—	—
Two Alta. Red	1.08½	1.07½	1.07	1.06	1.05½	1.02½	—	—	—	—
Three Alta. Red	1.03½	1.02½	1.02	1.01	1.00½	.97½	—	—	—	—
Tough 1 Nor.	1.08½	1.07½	1.07	1.06	1.05½	1.02½	1.01	.99½	.98½	.98
Tough 2 Nor.	1.05½	1.04½	1.04	1.03	1.02½	.99½	.98	.96½	.95½	.95
Tough 3 Nor.	1.02½	1.01½	1.01	1.00	.99½	.96½	.95	.93½	.92½	.92
Tough No. 4	.94½	.93½	.93	.92	.91½	.88½	.87	.85½	.84½	.84
Tough No. 5	.87½	.86½	.86	.85	.84½	.81½	.80	.78½	.77½	.77
Tough No. 6	.81½	.80½	.80	.79	.78½	.75½	.74	.72½	.71½	.71
Tough Feed	.74½	.73½	.73	.72	.71½	.68½	.67	.65½	.64½	.64
Rej. 1 Nor.	1.08½	1.07½	1.07	1.06	1.05½	1.02½	1.01	.99½	.98½	.98
Rej. 2 Nor.	1.05½	1.04½	1.04	1.03	1.02½	.99½	.98	.96½	.95½	.95
Rej. 3 Nor.	1.00½	.99½	.99	.98	.97½	.94½	.93	.91½	.90½	.90
Rej. No. 4	.92½	.91½	.91	.90	.89½	.86½	.85	.83½	.82½	.82
Rej. No. 5	.86½	.85½	.85	.84	.83½	.80½	.79	.77½	.76½	.76
Rej. No. 6	.80½	.79½	.79	.78	.77½	.74½	.73	.71½	.70½	.70
Smutty 1 Nor.	1.06½	1.05½	1.05	1.04	1.03½	1.00½	.99	.97½	.96½	.96
Smutty 2 Nor.	1.03½	1.02½	1.02	1.01	1.00½	.97½	.96	.94½	.93½	.93
Smutty 3 Nor.	.98½	.97½	.97	.96	.95½	.92½	.91	.89½	.88½	.88
Smutty No. 4	.90½	.89½	.89	.88	.87½	.84½	.83	.81½	.80½	.80
Smutty No. 5	.84½	.83½	.83	.82	.81½	.78½	.77	.75½	.74½	.74
Smutty No. 6	.78½	.77½	.77	.76	.75½	.72½	.71	.69½	.68½	.68

Tough Smuttys 17c under Straight Grade. Tough Rejectods 15c under Straight Grade.

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CAR LOAD LOTS

Deduct from the figures given below the amount of your freight per bushel and any charges you incur in loading, such as Elevator handling charge, 1½c per bushel, Elevator service charge, ¾c per bushel, demurrage, etc.

One Nor.	$1.35	Tough 1 Nor.	$1.27	No. 1 Alta. Red	$1.30	Smutty 1 Nor.	$1.26
Two Nor.	1.32	Tough 2 Nor.	1.24	No. 2 Alta. Red	1.27	Smutty 2 Nor.	1.22
Three Nor.	1.27	Tough 3 Nor.	1.21	No. 3 Alta. Red	1.22	Smutty 3 Nor.	1.17
No. 4	1.20	Tough No. 4	1.14			Smutty No. 4	1.10
No. 5	1.13	Tough No. 5	1.07			Smutty No. 5	1.04
No. 6	1.07	Tough No. 6	1.01			Smutty No. 6	.98
Feed	1.01	Tough Feed	.84				
No. 1 Durum	$1.27	Rej. 1 Nor.	$1.27				
No. 2 Durum	1.24	Rej. 2 Nor.	1.24				
No. 3 Durum	1.19	Rej. 3 Nor.	1.19				
		Rej. No. 4	1.12				
		Rej. No. 5	1.06				
		Rej. No. 6	1.00				

Tough Smuttys 17c and Tough Rejectods 15c under Straight Grades.

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